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GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE
Longtime Tucsonan to Head Department

PHOENIX – Governor Napolitano has named Jan Leshner, of Tucson, as the new Director of the Arizona Department of Commerce. Leshner is replacing Gil Jimenez, who is leaving to spend more time with his family. Leshner has been with the Napolitano administration since 2003, coordinating policy development and issues management for all of southern Arizona for the Governor’s office.

“Jan has done a tremendous job in southern Arizona,” Governor Napolitano said. “She combines a business background with a proven record of leadership and accomplishments, and I know that all of Arizona will benefit with her as the Director of the Arizona Department of Commerce.”

Governor Napolitano went on to say that Director Jimenez will be missed at the capitol and the Arizona Department of Commerce. “Under Gil’s leadership, Arizona has seen the creation of more than 27,000 new and high-wage jobs, in addition to a 21% jump in the number of business projects locating or expanding to Arizona just this past fiscal year. He’s been there since day one and I thank him for all his hard work.”

Leshner is looking forward to her new role. “I will miss working in Tucson,” Leshner said. “But, I’m very excited to be able to work on the economic development for all of Arizona.”

Leshner, a former small business owner and key player in Southern Arizona economic development for the past decade has a degree in political science from the University of Arizona and became accredited in public relations in 2003. Among other organizations, she is a member of the Arizona Women’s Political Caucus and has been on the board of directors for the Greater Tucson Economic Council and Women at the Top. Leshner has served the City of Tucson in a multitude of ways in the years prior to her work with the Office of the Governor, including a position with the Tucson Economic Development Corporation.